



Beekeeper Harold Werning holds a handful of dead bees, possible pesticide victims.

—State Journal photos by L. Roger Turner

Bees kept too busy with pesticide deaths

By Sunny Schubert
Of The State Journal

CAMBRIA — The bees struggle out the door of the wooden hive, each one carrying another bee.

They drag their thrashing burdens to the edge of the wooden platform, then push the dying bees over the brink before returning to the hive for more.

Harold Werning points at the busy funeral procession in and out of the hive and the slowly growing pile of dead bees near the door. "Bees are particular," he says softly. "They can't stand weak or dead bees in the hive. They won't gather nectar or make honey until they get all those dead bees out of there."

And clearing out their dead hives-mates will keep the bees busy for quite some time because several million of the little six-legged stingers are dead or dying — poisoned, Werning suspects, by aerial applications of pesticides.

The bees started dying several weeks ago, Werning explains as he walks around his hardest-hit bee yard, a hilltop complex of 280 hives scattered under tall oak and hickory trees. He says that 65 to 70 percent of the colony is dead, and honey production is down dramatically. The beekeeper estimates his loss at about \$5,000.

The situation is even worse for Judd Neef, another Columbia County beekeeper. His Bear's Wilde Honey Farm contains 38 bee yards, of which 37 sustained damage ranging from moderate to total destruction.

The Agricultural Conservation Ser-

vice operates an indemnity program, which Neef says probably will reimburse him about \$16,000 for the loss of the bees — but won't do anything about the loss of honey production.

"We always expect some loss from pesticides, but it's never been this bad before," Werning says softly. "If it's killing the bees like this, imagine what it's doing to the other wildlife."

Aerial application of pesticides is especially dangerous to bees, Werning explains, because the planes don't scare the bees out of the fields the way ground applicators do.

And beekeepers are lobbying against certain long-kill pesticides, like Sevin and PennCap-M, because the bees carry the pesticide back to the hive, thus poisoning the bee larvae inside.

As for the effect of the pesticide on the honey, Werning spreads his hands and shrugs. "That's a vast gray area right now," he says.

Beekeepers know that farmers need to protect their crops from insects. "We're not cranks. There's no way we're saying they should stop spraying. All we want is a little cooperation," Werning says.

Area canning companies

"There are lots of ways we can protect our bees when we know someone's spraying. We can sprinkle them with water so the bees think it's raining and stay inside. We can screen the hives or move them or even pour sugar water inside so the bees stay there cleaning up."

Both men point to two area canning companies — Fall River and Larson —

as an example of what can be accomplished with cooperation.

"When Fall River sprayed a cornfield near one of my bee yards, they called me ahead of time and warned me," Werning says. "I was able to protect my bees and hardly lost any at all."

Neef agrees. "Fall River always has been very cooperative — they seem to care about my bees. But not Larson. I personally took maps showing the location of all my bee yards down to the company office in Cambria. Whether their field manager got them or not, I don't know, but they've never bothered to call me or anything," he says.

'Glad to cooperate'

Werning, who happens to work at Larson as a canning floor leader, also says the company is less than cooperative.

Larson's chief field manager, Roy Beyer, disagrees. "If we know where the hives are, we'll be glad to cooperate," he says.

He denies ever receiving any maps and says the company's records of spraying dates don't coincide with reports of heavy bee kills.

"Besides, we're not the only canning company operating around here," he says.

The plant industry division of the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection is investigating the Cambria-area bee kills, according to Jim Enwright.

But so far, he says, they're not even sure the bees were killed by pesticides. "We sent an inspector out, and he brought back some dead bees that are being examined in our laboratory, but that's as far as we are right now. The investigation is continuing," he says.

It's the state insect

Meanwhile, the Wisconsin Beekeepers and Honey Association will continue its efforts toward gaining cooperation between farmers and beekeepers.

"After all, the bee is the state insect, and Wisconsin ranks in the top three states in terms of honey production," Werning says. "We used to have this 'out-of-sight-out-of-mind' attitude about our hives, because most people are scared of bees."

"But now we want people to know, because we're finding out that, with cooperation, we don't have to suffer losses like this."



Werning heeded warning to protect hives near this Fall River Canning Co. cornfield.

State

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State digest

Jobless aid claims stay low

By United Press International

For the second successive week, the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations reports the number of unemployment compensation claims is the lowest in four years.

For the week ending Saturday, there were 34,438 claims and there were 36,168 the previous week, according to the agency. There were 47,541 claims a year ago, the department said.

PCBs found to weaken fish

MILWAUKEE (UPI) — Low levels of PCBs given laboratory trout weakened the backbones of the fish over a nearly four-month period, three federal fish biologists report.

The three said the PCB levels in the lab fish are similar to that found in trout in Lake Michigan. PCBs are industrial chemicals.

The biologists said they discovered a drastic imbalance in the makeup of the backbones after 118 days of exposure to very low concentrations of the industrial chemicals.

The biologists are Wilbur Mauck of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at La Crosse and Paul Mehrle and Foster Mayer of the service in Columbia, Mo.

Woman charged in poison scheme

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Tennessee woman was accused Friday of making a boy friend ill with rat poison so that he would have to depend on her care.

Elizabeth Mae Payne, 20, of Stanton, Tenn., was charged with causing injury by conduct regardless of life. Bond was set by Circuit Court at \$10,000, pending a hearing.

Miss Payne also was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. Authorities said a pistol was found in her purse Wednesday when she was taken into custody at Milwaukee County General Hospital while visiting Robert Neal, 37, of Stanton.

A complaint filed by Milwaukee County authorities said tests showed Neal's blood had a "concentration of arsenic 1,000 times more than the normal high level for a human being."

'Most wanted' state man jailed

EUGENE, Ore. (AP) — A 51-year-old bank robber from Sheboygan, Wis., once on the FBI's most wanted list, remained jailed Friday while awaiting extradition to face escape charges in Texas.

Benjamin H. Paddock was arrested without incident Wednesday night in nearby Springfield outside the bingo parlor he operated. FBI agents said Paddock had run the establishment for more than a year under the alias Bruce W. Erickson.

Paddock escaped from the federal correctional institution at La Tuna, Texas, on Dec. 31, 1968. He was convicted of charges arising from the armed robberies of three Phoenix, Ariz., banks, the FBI said.

The FBI said Paddock was placed on the agency's 10 most wanted list in June 1969 but removed from it in July 1977.

Voters can't split primary ticket

By Reid Beveridge
Of The State Journal

A lot of Wisconsinites, particularly in Madison and Milwaukee, may want to vote for one of the Republican gubernatorial candidates in Tuesday's primary election and then for their local Democratic candidates for legislative or county offices.

But they can't, although many apparently don't know it.

"You can only vote a straight party

ticket," said Dane County Clerk Francis R. Hebl, chief election officer for Dane County. "There are no split tickets."

The fact that they will be limited to a straight Republican ticket may dissuade some otherwise Democratic voters who want to vote for either Rep. Robert W. Kasten Jr., R-Wis., or Lee S. Dreyfus, the two Republican candidates for governor.

The vote in the Republican gubernatorial primary is particularly attractive this year because of the wide-

spread belief among Democrats that Gov. Martin J. Schreiber has a substantial lead over his challenger, David Carley, and isn't in much danger of being defeated.

All this changes in the general election. On Nov. 7, voters will be able to vote for whichever candidates they wish, regardless of party. They can split tickets, picking back and forth for their choices.

The number of primary races in offices below governor varies throughout the state, although there are no

local contests on Dane County's Republican ballot.

In other Republican statewide races, Rep. LaVerne Ausman, R-Elk Mound, and Rep. Russell Olson, R-Bassett, are vying for the GOP lieutenant governor nomination.

Beyond that, the only other GOP primary on the Dane County ballot is the statewide race for state treasurer between Harold Clemens and Roger Stauter.

There are numerous Democratic primary races in Dane County.

There is a seven-way race for sheriff, a five-way race for register of deeds and Democratic primaries in two of Madison's four Assembly districts.

The Democratic monopoly is not the case in many rural counties. Many of them have legislative or county GOP primaries.

The procedure for selecting which party the voter will cast his ballot in is somewhat different depending on whether voting machines or paper ballots are used.

In wards where voting machines are used, two things can happen because there are two kinds of voting machines, according to Thomas Schwartz of the Madison city clerk's office.

On the older machines, there is a lever on the bottom right where the voter pulls Democratic, Republican, Conservative or Independent. That locks the voting levers of the other parties and restricts the voter to his selection.

On the new machines, the voter makes his party selection when he votes on the first race. Pulling down that first level automatically locks the levers of the other parties.

Hebl explained the procedure for paper ballots. When a voter enters the polling place uses paper ballots, the voter will be given a four-part ballot. There will be separate sheets for Democratic, Republican, Conservative and Independent parties. The voter will mark whichever ballot he wishes. He will return that portion to the election official. The other three sheets will be deposited in a waste can.

Main streets and side roads

False arrest

I've been waiting for the clone jokes to start popping up and sure enough they have.

I heard this one from attorney Charles Hoornstra:

It seems this Catholic priest, a popular sort of fellow, decided he wanted a clone of himself and went ahead with the procedure.

However, things didn't go as the priest had hoped. The clone turned out to be just the opposite in personality of the priest. He swore, was obscene and chased women.

As this continued, the priest began to worry. His clone was doing things, and he was being blamed for them.

One day while the two were up in the bell tower, the priest thought to himself, "Now is the time to act and end this whole mess, God forgive me," and he pushed the clone over the side and to the ground where, it died.

The police came and arrested the priest. Do you know what they charged him with? Making an obscene clone fall.

So much for the clone jokes, I hope.

Keep 'em posted

We know a fellow who claims his dog can read. As proof, after painting his porch floor recently, he pointed at a sign which said, "Wet Paint" — and



By Richard W. Jaeger

that's just what the dog did. — Tom Besl, Melrose Chronicle.

Pair-a-phrase

Teacher: "Is the word 'trousers' singular or plural?"

Student: "They are singular at the top and plural at the bottom." — Edgerton Reporter.

Pressure cooker

With the primary election campaigns under way, this is an appropriate comment:

A politician who had changed his views rather radically was congratulated by a colleague.

"Guess you finally saw the light," the colleague said.

"I didn't see the light," was the

terse retort, "I felt the heat." — Monroe County Democrat, Sparta.

High caliber guy

"I had no part in the fight your honor," Ramon told the judge. "As soon as the trouble started, I ran, and then I heard two shots."

"Why, Ramon, there was only one shot fired," the judge remarked.

"Your honor, there were two, one when the bullet passed me and another when I passed the bullet." — Edgerton Reporter.

Positive approach

Blood Analysis lab manager: "Can you type blood?"

Job Applicant: "Sure! First you press the 'B' key, then the 'I' key and then the other letters." — Union Grove Sun.

Dirty dig

Here is one from a Madison reader:

A crew of repairmen drove out to the country to fix a road before they discovered that they had left their shovels in town. They phoned the county engineer to report their plight.

"I'll send the shovels out right away," said the engineer. "Meanwhile, just lean on each other."